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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: U.S. Patent App. Serial No. 09/435,373

Inventor: Shigeki OUCHI

Filed: November 5, 1999

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR
EXTRACTING TITLE FROM
DOCUMENT IMAGE

Certificate of Mailing
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I hereby certify that this document and fee is being deposited on _____ with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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DECLARATION OF INVENTOR UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

I, Shigeki Ouchi, am the inventor of the above-captioned patent application. I have been employed by the Ricoh Company since April 1, 1993 (Month, Day, Year).

U.S. Patent No. 6,289,121, issued to Abe, has been cited in the prosecution of the above-captioned patent application in support of a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a). The Abe patent has been assigned to the Ricoh Company recorded with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on February 22, 1999 at Reel No.: 010017 and Frame No.: 0466.

At the time when I made the invention claimed in the above-captioned application in Japan, I was under an obligation to assign the invention to the Ricoh Company by virtue of:

- employment agreement
- company policy
- Japanese law

Therefore, according to 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), U.S. Patent No. 6,689,121 cannot preclude the patentability of my invention on grounds of obviousness.

All statements herein made of my own knowledge are true, and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true. I understand that willful false statements and the like contained herein are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and may jeopardize the validity of the present patent.

Signed: Shigeki Ouchi

Dated: May 1, 2003

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